

## ALVEOLAR AND FACIAL PROGNATHISM

By F. G. PARSONS

A SKULL of a female Saxon, lately sent to me by W. R. P. Stebbing, Esq., from a grave row cemetery at Finglesham, between Deal and Richborough, has interested me on account of its rather marked prognathism, and has reminded me that I have seen something of the kind before in Saxon skulls.

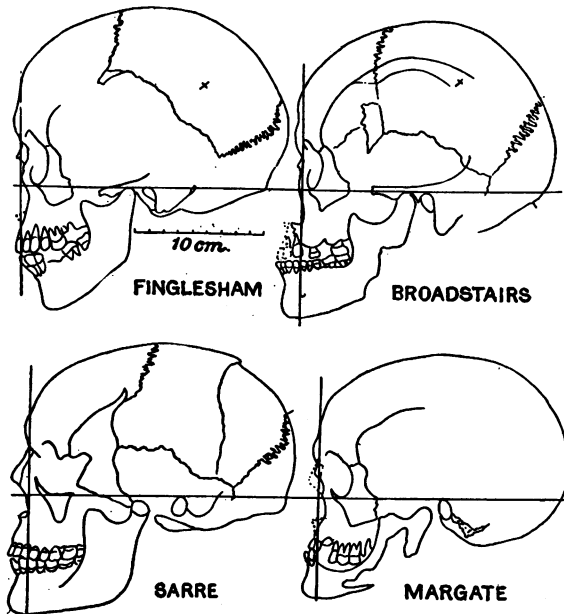
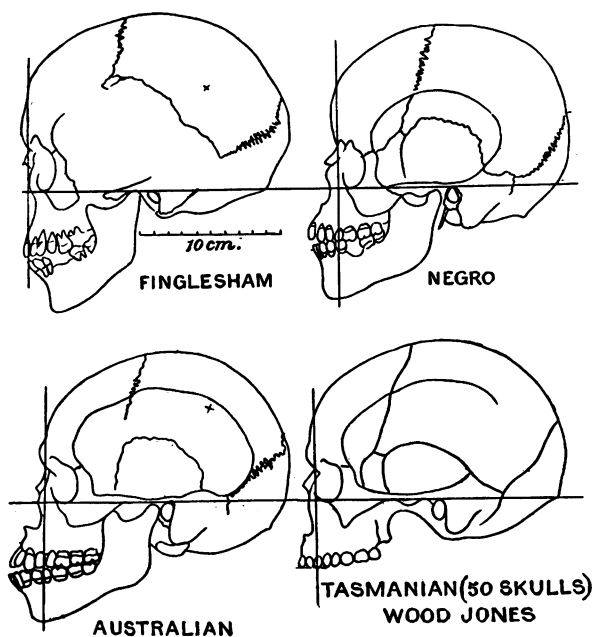
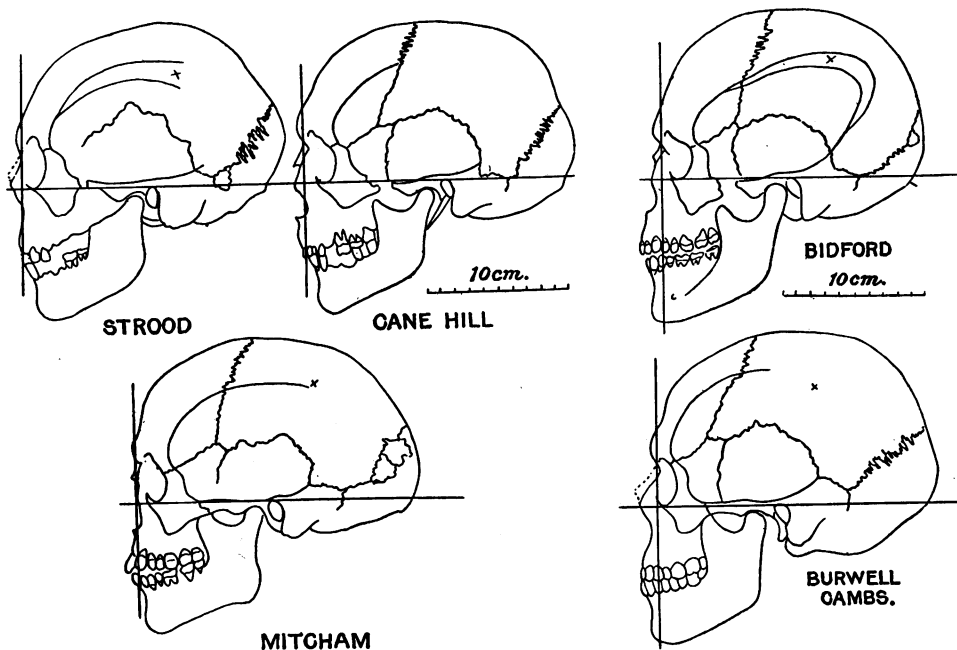


Fig. 1. Jutish female skulls.

Since I have contours, drawn to scale, of over sixty of these<sup>1</sup> I am able to contrast some of them with this Finglesham contour, and to realise that this is a case of marked alveolar prognathism with marked facial metagnathism (if the term be allowed).

It will be seen in fig. 1 that the other female Jutish skulls picked out for comparison combine facial with alveolar prognathism, and I suggest that the line dropped from the nasion, at right angles to the Frankfurt plane, is a useful means of indicating the amount of this latter characteristic. Fig. 2 shows three male Saxon skulls, in which alveolar prognathism accompanied

<sup>1</sup> "Anglo-Saxon skull contours." *R. Anthropol. Inst. Occasional Papers*, No. 9.



facial metagnathism, while fig. 3 gives two examples of alveolar, accompanied by slight facial prognathism. Fig. 4 contrasts the Finglesham skull with Negro, Australian and Tasmanian crania, while fig. 5 is a reconstruction,

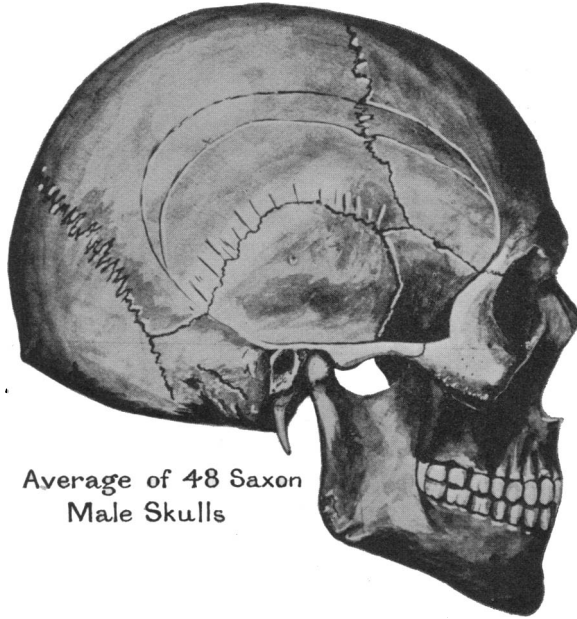


Fig. 5

hitherto unpublished, of forty-eight male Saxon skulls, and shows that slight alveolar prognathism is a characteristic of these people. Whether it is associated with the "edge to edge bite" of Anglo-Saxons I am not prepared to say, but it is worth bearing in mind.